

~~CLAIMS~~ We Claim

1. A method of making a lithographic printing master comprising the steps of
    - providing an imaging material which comprises a lithographic base having a hydrophilic surface and a non-ablative image-recording layer which is removable in a single-fluid ink or can be rendered removable in a single-fluid ink by exposure to heat or light;
    - image-wise exposing the image-recording layer to heat or light;
    - processing the material by supplying to the image-recording layer a single-fluid ink which is an emulsion of an ink phase and a non-aqueous polar phase.
  2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the image-recording layer is removable with the single-fluid ink before exposure and is rendered less removable after exposure.
  3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the image-recording layer comprises hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles.
  4. A method according to claim 2 wherein the image-recording layer comprises an aryldiazosulfonate polymer.
  5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the image-recording layer is exposed to UV light.
  6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the image-recording layer comprises an infrared light absorbing compound and is exposed to infrared light.
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7. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising
    - a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and
    - a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.

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8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the vinyl resin has a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.
10. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of image-wise exposing and/or the step of processing are carried out while the imaging material is present in a rotary printing press.

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